

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Monday, December 14, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., in the auditorium of the Avery School, High Street, Dedham Massachusetts. Present were:

Michael L. Butler  
Sarah MacDonald  
James A. MacDonald

Selectman Carmen Dellolacono and Selectman Paul Reynolds were not present for the meeting.

Also present for the meeting were: William G. Keegan, Town Administrator, Nancy A. Baker, Asst. Town Administrator, Marie Rizzo, Asst. to Administration, David Field, Director of Engineering, Joe Flanagan, DPW Director and Jason Mammone, Infrastructure Engineer.

Mr. Butler called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**DISCUSSION AND VOTE RE: OPPONENT STATEMENT FOR SPECIAL TOWN ELECTION ON JANUARY 19, 2010**

Mr. MacDonald made a motion to accept the Proponent Statement written by the New Avery Steering Committee. Additionally, due to the fact that there is no person who is best able to present arguments against the questions appearing on the January 19, 2010. Special Election Ballot, the Board designated Town Counsel to write the Opponent Statement in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 238 of the Acts of 2002; seconded by Ms. MacDonald. **On the Vote:** Mr. MacDonald, yes; Ms. MacDonald, yes; and Mr. Butler, yes. (Mr. Dellolacono and Mr. Reynolds were not present.)

**NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING RE: PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO COLBURN STREET**

**Present:** David Field, Director of Engineering, Joe Flanagan, DPW Director and Jason Mammone, Infrastructure Engineer.

Mr. Field gave a Powerpoint Presentation to the audience relative to the Pros and Cons of the Colburn Street Project. Additionally, Mr. Field commented that the Project is recommended in the FY2011 Pavement Management Plan. To date, the Engineering Department has developed a detail survey, traffic counts and five options to consider relative to the road.

The road options for consideration are as follows:

1. Re-pave the road with existing conditions;
2. Two-way traffic with sidewalk on south side;
3. Two-way traffic with sidewalk on south side and no parking on north side;
4. One-way traffic westbound and parking on south side only; and
5. One-way traffic eastbound with parking on south side only.

At this point in the presentation, Mr. Field opened up the discussion for audience participation and questions.

-Ken Gilchrist, 307 Colburn Street, voiced his concerns relative to the Option #3 Plan, i.e., curbing and parking.

- Mitchell Bell, 5 Evergreen Way, asked Mr. Field to clarify the one-way options. Mr. Field explained the one-way impacts relative to the road. Additionally, Engineering did traffic counts at the intersection in order to project what would happen if the road were a one-way. Mr. Field gave the audience a breakdown of the traffic counts relative to the surrounding streets and the impacts that might occur throughout the neighborhood.

-Donna Goulet, 53 Maverick Street, voice her concerns relative to the one-way options. Ms. Goulet informed all that there are a many children who reside in this neighborhood. She felt that making Colburn Street a one-way would increase the traffic on Maverick Street. She asked if both Colburn and Maverick Streets could be designated one-way streets.

-Arthur Frietas, 281 Colburn Street, informed all that Colburn Street is very tight. Mr. Frietas was concerned with the 18 wheelers driving down on this narrow road. He was also concerned, going forward, with plowing operations during the winter months. Mr. Frietas went on to say that due to the numerous automobiles parked at each residence, there might not be enough spaces on Colburn Street to accommodate all of the neighbors parking needs—presently, there is parking on both sides of the street.

-Barbara Gula, 211 Curve Street, voiced her concerns relative to Maverick Street repaved to Colburn—it is ready to be repaved again at Evergreen Street. Additionally, she informed the Board that there has never been valid enforcement of the Winter Parking Ban at this location. Ms. Gula asked who will make the ultimate decision relative to the option for Colburn Street. Mr. Field responded that Maverick Street was repaved with retaining wall and drainage. He indicated that the balance of Maverick Street is not scheduled to be paved and that Colburn Street is in worse condition and scheduled to be repaved. Mr. MacDonald informed Ms. Gula that, presently, there is no Parking Ban. Mr. MacDonald went on to say that a few years ago, the Board of Selectmen eliminated the ban. Additionally, when there is a snow emergency, the Town Administrator conducts a town-wide Code Red. Mr. Butler informed Ms. Gula that the Board of Selectmen makes the final decision relative to Colburn Street. He went on to say that the road work is recommended and scheduled in FY2011. Mr. Butler agreed with the concerns relative to pedestrian safety and echoed the need for a sidewalk on Colburn Street—he will look at Maverick Street going forward. Mr. Gilchrist suggested repaving Colburn Street only and constructing sidewalks and curbing on Maverick Street. Mr. Bell agreed with Mr. Gilchrist relative to Maverick Street—he would like to see the sidewalks continue up to Maverick Street. Mr. Gilchrist felt that a walking path along the river would be a waste of money.

-Peter Dillion, 42 Waldo Street, asked Mr. Field if Engineering did traffic counts on Waldo Street—he felt vehicles travelling in this location will go down Waldo Street first. Mr. Dillon asked what is being considered for Waldo Street and informed all that there are no sidewalks. Mr. Field informed him that Waldo Street is not on the Pavement Management Plan schedule for FY2011. Additionally, there were traffic counts conducted at the intersection and it indicated right on to Curve Street. Mr. Dillon suggested that Waldo Street be a one-way. Mr. Field responded that if Waldo Street were a one-way, it would generate more vehicle impact. Mr. Gilchrist commented that if the Town makes Colburn Street a one-way, it should also make Waldo Street a one-way. Mr. Gilchrist felt that making Colburn Street a one-way would have a significant impact on the neighborhood. Mr. Gilchrist informed the Board and Mr. Field that he has concerns with the small Colburn/Curve intersection—he asked if the curb cut could be larger. Additionally, Mr. Gilchrist was concerned that a Fire Apparatus would not be able to negotiate the turn at the intersection. Mr. Field informed all that making the road narrower will be

safer. Additionally, he did take into consideration Fire Apparatus and commented that the geometry is not unsafe and is within the guidelines. Mr. Gilchrist informed the Board that he has lived in the neighborhood for 35 years. During those years, his vehicle has been hit approximately 15 times. He felt that the Town of Dedham should pay everyone whose vehicle gets hit.

Bob Fish, District 6 Chairman, 29 Belnap Street, had questions relative to the Option #2 Plan. Mr. Fish felt that this option would have the least impact on the neighborhood and seems to provide the best opportunity. Mr. Field felt that this option would work; however, he informed all that the decision rests with the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Fish was also concerned with the 18 wheelers traveling down the street. Mr. Fish went on to say that the Alimed Company has done nothing esthetically to enhance the neighborhood. Going forward, Mr. Fish asked the Board not to give Alimed extra consideration relative to the 18 wheelers—he felt that the Town was accommodating Alimed. Mr. Butler commented that Alimed is important to the neighborhood—it employs a lot of people. However, Mr. Butler went on to say that the Town is trying diligently to build a bridge of communication with Alimed.

-Derek Moulton, 115 Whitehall Street, expressed his concerns relative to the pedestrian traffic at the intersection of Colburn/Maverick Streets, i.e., 3-way stop and narrow sidewalk. Mr. Moulton was most concerned with the children walking to school and walking through this intersection. Mr. Moulton suggested to his neighbors that if they have any questions, they speak directly with David Field, Director of Engineering. Mr. Moulton informed his neighbors that Mr. Field has always given him good answers to his questions. Mr. Moulton asked Mr. Field for copy and explanation relative to the Pavement Management plan going forward. Mr. Field responded that he will send Mr. Moulton a copy with explanations.

-Dan Hart, 75 Harvard Street, thanked Mr. Field and Engineering Department for putting together the five options for consideration. Mr. Hart agreed with the narrowing of the intersection and was optimistic that this action would slow down traffic. Questions were asked relative to sidewalks and grass strips. Mr. Field gave all a break down relative to the various types of sidewalk construction and grass strips.

-Jonathan Diamond, 120 Colburn Street, asked if there might be a possibility to construct speed bumps on Colburn/Maverick Streets to slow down traffic heading for Dedham Square. Mr. Field commented that he would have to take this request to the Traffic Calming Committee for approval. Additionally, speed bumps will affect emergency vehicles. Mr. Field went on to say that vehicles parked on the street will generally slow down the traffic—this is a natural traffic calmer. Mr. Diamond believed that any option with granite curbing would be great. This design would give all an opportunity to appreciate the beautiful area. Mr. Diamond was also pleased with the creation of walking trails.

-Donna Goulet, 53 Maverick Street, was concerned with the speed limit set for Maverick Street. She asked the Board to make Colburn Street a one-way to Maverick Street. Ms. Goulet informed the Board that there are approximately 25 children residing on Maverick Street under the age of 11. Ms. Goulet went on to say that the road is used as a throughway to Washington Street and West Roxbury area. Mr. Butler informed all that the Board of Selectmen, DPW and Engineering Department are working to develop a Traffic Calming Policy going forward.

-Mitchell Bell, 5 Evergreen Way, asked if there was more traffic on Colburn Street than Maverick Street. Mr. Butler asked him to approach the presentation screen after the meeting to review the counts.

-Fred Loewen, 245 Colburn Street, commented that the street needs a sidewalk-- let's get the job done. He went on to say that the Board should make the decision and the residents will adapt.

-Joe Heisler, 47 Maverick Street, has concerns with the parking of vehicles on Maverick Street. Mr. Heisler asked Mr. Field if there was ample parking on the street. Mr. Field responded that there are enough parking spaces. Mr. Heisler asked Mr. Field if there were restrictions due to the proximity of the brook—what are the Town's restrictions. Mr. Field responded that they are not constructing past the fence or making radical changes—he did not believe there were any environmental restrictions. Additionally, they are not constructing to the river front area. Mr. Heisler asked the Board if Maverick Street could move up on the Pavement Management Plan if it were made a one-way street.

-Sam Celata, 42 Stoughton Road, asked who benefits from this particular project. Additionally, he asked if this was a State project. Mr. Butler commented that some of the funds, approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$ , are from the State. The balance is from the Town's budget. Mr. Celata informed the Board that he is concerned with additional taxes. Mr. Celata asked if the Town could pay for road work and also a new Avery School.

-Barbara Gula, 211 Curve Street, requested that the Board of Selectmen take a hard look before they make a final decision relative to making Colburn Street a one-way. Ms. Gula felt that Maverick Street could not take the extra traffic that might develop due to this action. Mr. Butler commented that the Board was not inclined to approve one-way streets in general due to the impact on the other streets in the area.

-Joe Dineen, District 3 Chairman, informed the Board that he heard most people in the area would like two-way streets. Additionally, Mr. Dineen felt that 18 wheeler traffic needs to have limited times posted—restricted during the day and not used during the night time.

-Resident, 45 Colburn Street, had concerns with the parked cars on the street.

-Charlie Kruger, 11 Stafford Street, commented that the children in the neighborhood walk up Colburn Street to School—he had concerns for their safety walking. Mr. Kruger went on to say that if the Town builds sidewalks on the street, the children will use them. Mr. Kruger added that the walking paths near the river are for recreational purposes.

-Bob Fish, District 3 Chairman, commented that he agreed with Mr. Loewen—the residents who live on Colburn Street will get used to the two-way traffic and sidewalk. He went on to say that esthetically, the project will be a good thing for the neighborhood.

-Ken Gilchrist, 307 Maverick Street, informed all that he felt Alimed should pay for the Colburn Street Project. Additionally, he is still concerned with the intersection, especially due to the accidents that have occurred in this location over the years—the intersection is narrow and goes down the hill.

Ms. MacDonald made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. MacDonald. **On the Vote:** Mr. MacDonald, yes; Ms. MacDonald, yes; and Mr. Butler, yes. (Mr. Dellolacono and Mr. Reynolds were not present.)

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

This is to certify that the above is a true and accurate record of the Minutes of the Board of Selectmen's Meeting held on December 14, 2009, which Minutes were approved on April 27, 2010.

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Michael L. Butler, Chairman